IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claim will replace all prior versions and listings of claim in the present application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (previously presented) A stream server apparatus connected to a first network and a second network comprising:

wherein said stream apparatus is connected to a first client apparatus connected to said first network via a first path and a second client apparatus connected to said second network via a second path through said first network and a firewall apparatus and via a third path without a firewall apparatus,

a first interface which transmits and receives control request packets and data packets to and from said first client apparatus via the first path and being capable of transmitting and receiving control request packets to and from said second client apparatus via said second path;

a second interface which transmits and receives data packets to and from the second client apparatus via the third path;

a stream transport management module which specifies said first interface or said second interface in accordance with a network attribute of the first client apparatus and the second client apparatus; and

a process module which executes a communication process based on communication protocols related to said first and second client apparatuses via said first interface or the second interface.

2

2. (previously amended) The stream server apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said process module executes a stream data distribution process based on a same communication protocol for both the relevant one of the client apparatuses belonging to the first network and the another relevant one of the client apparatuses belonging to the second network different from the first network.

3. (original) The stream server apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said communication protocol uses a user datagram protocol.

4. (previously amended) The stream server apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a control request reception unit which notifies an ID of the interface specified by said stream transport management module to the client apparatuses.

5. (previously amended) The stream server apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said stream transport management module specifies said first interface, if a client apparatus of the client apparatuses belongs to the second network different from the first network for which the firewall apparatus inhibits illegal accesses and if the communication protocol includes a reception process of a packet on a side of the stream server apparatus.

6. (previously amended) The stream server apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said stream transport management module specifies said second interface, if a client apparatus of the client apparatuses belongs to the

3

second network different from the first network for which the firewall apparatus inhibits illegal accesses and if the communication protocol does not include a reception process of a packet on a side of the stream server apparatus.

7. (previously amended) The stream server apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said stream transport management module specifies said second interface, if a client apparatus of the client apparatuses belongs to the second network different from the first network for which the firewall apparatus inhibits illegal accesses and if the communication protocol is a stream data distributing protocol.

8. (previously amended) The stream server apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said stream transport management module specifies said first interface, if a client apparatus of the client apparatuses belongs to the same network as a network to which the stream server apparatus belongs.

9. (previously amended) The stream server apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said control request reception unit notifies the client apparatuses of the ID of the specified interface, said ID being not a local ID distinguishable by the first network for which the firewall apparatus inhibits illegal accesses but a global ID capable of being translated into the local ID by a network relay apparatus en route to a client apparatus requested stream data distribution.

4

10. (previously amended) The stream server apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said process module comprises:

a stream transport processing unit for executing stream data distribution to the client apparatuses based upon one stream data distribution protocol; and

a bandwidth management processing unit for executing bandwidth control communication based on a control program for controlling a bandwidth of the stream data distribution.

11. (previously presented) A network attached storage system for managing a file system and distributing stream data stored in a storage unit to client apparatuses via networks, said network attached storage system being connected to a first network and a second network comprising:

wherein said network attached storage system is connected to a first client apparatus connected to said first network via a first path and a second client apparatus connected to said second network via a second path through said first network and a firewall apparatus and via a third path without a firewall apparatus,

a first interface for transmitting and receiving control request packets and data packets to and from said first client apparatus via the first path and being capable of transmitting and receiving control request packets to and from said second client apparatus via said second path;

a second interface for transmitting and receiving data packets to and from the second client apparatus via the third path; and

5

a process module for executing a communication process, via an
interface identified in accordance with a network attribute and a type of a
communication protocol of the client apparatus and based on communication
protocols related to said first and second client apparatuses via said first
interface or said second interface.

12. (previously presented) An apparatus including a storage medium
with a program contained therein, the program executable by a stream server
apparatus connected to a first network and a second network, wherein said
stream server apparatus is connected to a first client apparatus connected to
said first network via a first path and a second client apparatus connected to
said second network via a second path through said first network and a
firewall apparatus and via a third path without a firewall apparatus, said
stream server apparatus comprising a first interface which transmits and
receives receiving control request packets and data packets to and from said
first client apparatus via the first path and being capable of transmitting and
receiving control request packets to and from said second client apparatus via
said second path, and a second interface which transmits and receives data
packets to and from the second client apparatus via the third path, said
second interface being connected to a wide area network, said program when
executed causing the stream server apparatus to perform:

a stream transport management step of identifying said first interface or
said second interface in accordance with a network attribute of the first client
apparatus and the second client apparatus; and

6

a step of executing a communication process based on the communication protocols related to said first and second client apparatuses via said first interface or said second interface.

13. (previously presented) A stream server apparatus connected to a first network and a second network, comprising:

wherein said stream server apparatus is connected to a first client apparatus connected to said first network via a first path and a second client apparatus connected to said second network via a second path through said first network and a firewall apparatus and via a third path without a firewall ;

a first interface which transmits and receives control request packets and data packets to and from said first client apparatus via the first path and being capable of transmitting and receiving control request packets to and from said second client apparatus via said second path;

a second interface which transmits and receives data packets to and from the second client apparatus via the third path;

a stream transport management module which specifies said first interface or said second interface in accordance with a network attribute of the first client apparatus and the second client apparatus; and

a process module which executes a communication process based on the communication protocols related to said first and second client apparatuses via said first interface or said second interface

wherein said process module executes a stream data distribution process based on a user datagram protocol (UDP) as the same communication protocol both for the first and second client apparatuses.

7

14.   (new) The stream server apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said stream transport management module specifies the first or second interface in accordance with a network address of the first or second network received from the first or second client apparatus via the first or the second path.

15.   (new) The network attached storage system according to claim 11, further comprising:

a stream transport management module which specifies the first or second interface in accordance with a network address of the first or second network received from the first or second client apparatus via the first or second path.

16.   (new) The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said stream transport management step comprises:

a step of specifying the first or second interface in accordance with a network address of the first or second network received from the first or second client apparatus via the first or second path.

17.   (new) The stream server apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said stream transport management module specifies the first or second interface in accordance with a network address of the first or second network received from the first or second client apparatus via the first or second path.

8